



STATE YOUTH COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE SERVICES

The State Youth Council will coordinate, disseminate and ensure the delivery of quality effective services to Utah youth.

Newsletter

Vol. 2, No 1 January 2003

The purpose of this publication is to increase communication and awareness between the State Youth Council and community stakeholders. To that end, a regularly scheduled newsletter will be available in print, and on the Internet at <http://jobs.utah.gov/StateCouncil/Youth/dwsdefault.asp>.

Message from National Association of State Liaisons

FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS
FINAL DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON REAUTHORIZATION OF THE
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT
Youth Services

Issues

WIA led to a major shift in youth policy that has increased the emphasis on youth development and more intensive, year-round services. However, local areas continue to struggle with burdensome documentation and other eligibility requirements for youth applicants. These requirements have limited access to youth services and have affected the timeliness of service delivery.

In addition, the requirement in WIA for competitive procurement of the 10 youth program elements is unrealistic when applied to small states or rural areas with a limited pool of providers.

Principle

The State Liaisons believe that the youth program should retain its focus on at-risk youth with barriers to employment and out-of-school youth in particular. Apart from WIA, there are relatively few programs that target services to this population. To improve access to services, we urge changes to streamline the application and enrollment process for youth customers.

Recommendations

- Allow eligibility determination for other federal needs-based programs, especially the school lunch program, to satisfy WIA income eligibility requirements.
- Allow governors to expand the window for serving youth who do not qualify as low-income from 5 to 25 percent, while maintaining the conditions defined in current law.
- Allow local boards to determine how to provide the 10 required youth program elements, whether through a competitive process, through a sole source procurement or through agreement with the one-stop operator or one-stop partner program to provide any or all of the elements.

Regional Updates

Central

Contact Bo Hall

We are fortunate to have Jane Connard, attorney for IHC, as a new member of the Central Region Youth Council. Ms. Connard is also the chair of the Central Region Workforce investment board. The Regional Youth Council appreciates her desire to invest in the youth of our area by her participation. Additionally, the annual contract monitoring of the Youth Employ-Ability Services (YES) program was conducted in early December of 2002. Youth Council member Betty Barker, an instructor at the Jordan Applied Technology Center, was present at the entrance interview and also had the opportunity to meet and interview some of the YES program participants and worksite supervisors. An informative PowerPoint presentation was shown to the monitoring team highlighting the program's accomplishments and service enhancements. This presentation will be shown to all Central Region Youth Council members at the next meeting in March of 2003.

Eastern

Uinta Basin-Contact Wayne Griffin

The Uintah Basin Youth Council meets monthly and gets good representation from schools, youth service providers, and other youth organizations in the area. In its January meeting, Jane Gurr recognized Chauncy Montes as an outstanding intern at Dr. Todd Larsen's office, a local dentist. At the high schools in the Basin, there are currently about 200 student internships where students are working/learning at a worksite. A DWS employment counselor working for the school district develops these. Bill Caldwell, area Connections director, then updated the Council on the RESPECT youth leadership training program. It has been approved and is ready to start on January 31st and will be sponsored by DWS, Uintah School District Connections, and Vernal City Youth Council. Both Vint DeGraw and Bill commented on the successful partnershiping to put the program together, and how it will provide good mentoring for the participants. Bob Gilbert reported that some members of the Council had recently met with the Duchesne School District high school principals and talked about preparing students for the work place. It was suggested at the meeting that the Council put together a video of local employers describing the qualifications for their jobs and the importance of getting a high school education. The Council will begin working on that.

South Eastern-Contact Pattie Hansen

Pinnacle Canyon has the contract for eligible youth for Carbon and Emery County. At this time they are serving around 75 youth. Some of the services they are providing are Job Coaching, Tutoring, Monitoring, Internships, plus they are serving several younger youth and are working closely with those youth on several goals they have identified.

Moab and Blanding EC are serving youth by providing different services. They have youth who are in internships, college, tutoring, monitoring, etc. Moab and Blanding each has one Employment Counselor at there center who works directly with the youth in their areas.

Mountainland

Mountain Land-Contact Rickie Bryan

The Mountainland Regional Youth Council has come full circle. It went from being an independent council in the beginning, to joining an existing youth council, and reverted back into an independent youth council. The Youth Council has met twice to date (it evolved last fall). Discussion centered around the issue of which partners should be members on the council. Objectives were to: 1) identify resources available to youth (i.e., housing, food stamps, etc) 2) identify specific individuals at various organizations that are sensitive to the issues of youth and who can act as a contact person or resource 3) foster coordination and collaboration between agencies 4) identify youth needing services. An action plan was developed to 1) identify the seven school districts in region 2) have WIA staff serve on regional youth council 3) orient counselors at public schools and higher education institutions about available youth services 4) develop youth council brochure explaining program and services 5) determine method for student referral for various services.

North

Wasatch North-Contact Jan Zogmaister

At the last State Council Meeting an extension was granted to Futures Through Training to continue to provide our WIA Youth services to the Weber, Morgan and Davis County Area. We are pleased with the work they have done. As of December we have 112 active participants, 51 in follow up status and 163 YTD total served. Through our TANF Reserve Account Funds, we are providing 300 "at risk" students an opportunity for a safe and challenging after school program. The Roy City Boys and Girls Club utilizing TANF funds has expanded to serve Ogden City's "enterprise zone" at the Central Middle School. Their Smart Girls and Wise Guys programs have served over 300 youth.

Bear River North-Contact Clark Israelsen

The State Council voted in their last meeting to grant an extension to the Bear River Association of Government (BRAG) to continue providing WIA Youth services to the Cache, Box Elder, and Rich Counties. TANF funds have been used to provide collaborative services to 150-160 youth in a high adventure summer learning program, specialized service to Latino youth in Box Elder County, School to Careers funding, a pregnancy prevention program for Box Elder County, and to enhance 4-H programs in Northern rural Box Elder County.

Job Corps-Contact Scott Sneddon and Paul Otto

Job Corps is the most successful job-training program of its kind in America. Over 70,000 disadvantaged students in 118 Job Corps Centers throughout the United States are taking advantage of the opportunity to get a high school diploma and learn an employable trade. Students get paid to learn while in the Job Corps program. Job Corps Centers contain accredited high school and certified vocational trade instructors. Students are given an individualized, self-paced program. Centers offer over 20 vocational trade options. Utah has two Job Corps Centers, Weber Basin and Clearfield Job Corps Centers. After completion of the program students are provided job placement assistance. The average length of stay per student is 9 months. The student/faculty ratio is 13:1. Many students take advantage of the early college program after completing their high school and vocational trade program. Job Corps is a residential program. All meals, health care, education and recreation is provided at the Center. For further information call 1-800-442-jobs (5627) or www.clearfieldjcc.org, or contact the nearest Department of Work Force

Services employment center.

Western

Western-Contact Greg Muller

Western Region Youth Council provides services to youth who are WIA eligible, as well as other youth. These services are provided by a growing coalition including DWS, Winfield Kids, schools, after-school programs, higher education and other service providers. Current committee work includes the following. One committee is tasked with developing a community grant support initiative-- aimed at providing free (youth-focused) grant writing/getting assistance to communities in our region. Currently, two grants are being pursued. Another committee is tasked and progressing with the mapping of needs and resources relevant to targeted youth.

We have ideas for making improvements to this newsletter and we would appreciate yours. Questions or comments should be addressed to Tom Darais by contacting Susan Hill at (801) 626-3131, or shill@utah.gov.